



THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.

STATEMENT

OF A PORTION OF

THE MINNESOTA DELEGATION

TO

THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

WASHINGTON:

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TO THE DEMOCRATS OF MINNESOTA.

FELLOW-CITIZENS :

On the 12th of January last your State Convention, which assembled in the city of St. Paul, pursuant to a call of the State Central Committee, among others, selected the undersigned as delegates to the National Democratic Convention, called to meet at Charleston on the 23d of April, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

Before the election of delegates by the State Convention, the following resolutions were introduced by Mr. Becker, a delegate from Ramsey county, were seconded by Mr. Gorman, and were referred to the Committee on Resolutions, with instructions to report them back for the action of the Convention, to wit :

Resolved, That STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, of Illinois, is the first choice of the Democratic party of the State of Minnesota for the Presidency in 1860.

Resolved, That our delegates to Charleston are expected, as an expression of the will of the Democracy of Minnesota, to support him as such so long as such support may prove available to him and for the general interests of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That the Democratic party of this State will cordially support the nominee of the Democratic Convention at Charleston.

Resolved, That we reaffirm, reiterate, and fully indorse the Democratic platform adopted by the National Democratic Convention, at Cincinnati, in 1856 ; that we acquiesce in the Dred Scott decision, and that we are opposed to all attempts to reopen the African slave trade as disgraceful to the age and country.

Resolved, That under the Constitution, the citizens of one State cannot interfere with the domestic institutions of another State, and that any such interference is an attack upon the peace, safety, and dignity of every State in the Union, and that we denounce with indignation and abhorrence, not only the treasonable participators in the recent invasion of the soil of Virginia, at Harper's Ferry, but all others who, by sustaining, excusing, or palliating the offense, aid and comfort insurrection and sedition.

Immediately thereafter the following resolutions were also offered by Mr. Heard, of St. Paul, who appeared in the Convention as a substitute for an absent delegate from Steele county, to wit :

Resolved, That the true interests of the Democratic party of Minnesota demand that no person be sent as a delegate to the Charleston Convention who will not faithfully and cordially advocate and support by his influence and his vote STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, of Illinois, as the candidate of the Democracy for the next Presidency of the United States, and to vote for and adhere to him so long as his name is before the National Convention with his consent.

Resolved further, That our delegation to the Charleston Convention be instructed to carry out the above in spirit and in truth, and to vote for and earnestly and faithfully advocate and support STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS for President, so long as he allows his name to remain before said Convention.

Resolved further, That we again affirm our adherence to the doctrines enunciated in the Cincinnati Platform, giving to the people of the Territories, during their territorial existence, as well as to the people of the States, the uncontrollable right to regulate all their domestic affairs in their own way, including the institution of slavery.

Resolved, That we will support the nominee of the Charleston Convention upon this platform of principles.

Which resolutions were also referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Chair then announced the following Committee on Resolutions, to wit: Messrs. Gorman and Becker, of Ramsey; Clarke, of Lake Superior; Wood, of Chisago; Cavanaugh, of Fillmore; Cotton, of Winona; Starkey, of Anoka; Case, of Hennepin; Wilder, of Goodhue; La Due, of Dodge; Townsley, of La Sueur; and Sheppard, of Blue Earth.

And the Convention adjourned until evening.

Upon reassembling, Mr. Gorman, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported to the Convention, word for word and letter for letter, the resolutions introduced by his colleague, Mr. Becker, as hereinbefore quoted at length.

Mr. Robertson, of St. Paul, who appeared as a substitute for an absent delegate from Waseca county, as reported in the "Pioneer," was happy to be assured that the majority of this Convention were warm friends of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS; there were two Douglas parties in the Convention, but there was but one Douglas party among the people; and to this party he belonged. There were some Douglas men here who wanted to go it tenderly. The speaker represented the people, not politicians, and the people were earnest in support of Douglas. He offered the following resolutions, as an addition to those offered by Governor Gorman:

Resolved, That STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, if nominated at Charleston, will most certainly receive the electoral vote of Minnesota; therefore,

Resolved, (as the sense of this Convention,) That the entire vote of Minnesota be cast for him, and that the delegates from this State shall continue to vote for him until a majority of them decide otherwise.

Resolved, That upon all other questions arising in the Convention at Charleston, the vote of Minnesota be cast as a unit, and as a majority of the delegates may direct.

And after some discussion by others, also, added the following remarks: -

Colonel Robertson said all here were for DOUGLAS, only some were—not. If all were united—were DOUGLAS—why should there be a breach here. Whenever men are in a minority, they talk compromise. Let no sincere friend of DOUGLAS be frightened at the talk of breach in the Convention. He heard this morning that there was a movement here to prevent instructions, and then hunted up the resolutions and solicited the gentleman who showed them to me to strike out the word "request," but was met with the assertion that there had been a "compromise." He had represented Ohio in a National Convention, and knew the importance of the delegation *being a unit*, and that the Democratic delegates to the Charleston Convention should *be a unit*. What *breach* could there be in expressing fully the wishes of their constituents? The vote of the State might be neutralized by the milk-and-water compromise resolutions.

After further debate, the previous question was ordered upon the resolutions offered by Colonel Robertson, and the yeas and nays being called, they were—yeas 39, nays 76, as follows:

YEAS—Register, of Washington; Gorman, Gilman, Hopt, McGroty, Murnan, Spiel, of Ramsey; Shaeffer, L. Smith, Tower, Donaldson, of Dakota; Hoag, of Hennepin; Albey, Wheeler, Vertress, Kirk, Fitch, of Rice; Wilder, Simmons, and Hoyt, of Goodhue; Cleary, Shriner, Hinds, Hawkins, of Scott; Cavanaugh, Early, Roberts, Edwards, of Fillmore; Hadley, Heard, and Carver, of Steele; Clark, Robertson, of Steele; Sheppard, of Blue Earth; McCormick, of Sibley; Brunius, Heene, of ———; Starkey, of Anoka; Wood, of Chisago; and Trott, of Pine.

YEAS.—Setzer, Mower, Parsons, Ballard, of Washington; Becker, Hall, Lamar, of Ramsey; Dunwell, Masters, Winslow, of Dakota; Nelson, Huy, Russel, John Huy, Case, of Hennepin; Van Campen, Phelps, of Goodhue; W. D. Lowry, of Olmsted, [6 votes;] Gere Morse, Willis, Tillotson, of Fillmore; Streeter, [2 votes,] Kundson, Bufield, Dunbar, of Houston; Cottom, Webster, Williams, Dill, Johnson, Lamberton, of Winona; Wright, Montgomery, Davis, Bowes, of Wabashaw; Willard, Cook, of Mower; La Due, Hays, Whallon, of Dodge; Sherlock, Tondrow, of Faribault; Shoemaker, Sergeant, of Blue Earth; Smith, Towsley, of Le Seur; Cox, Magruder, of Nicollet; Brown, Rehfeld, of Brown; Peaslee, of Sibley; Chapman, Chandler, of Renville and McLeod; Adams, Hillard, of Wright; Caruthers, Read, of Stearns; Stone, of Benton; Skinner, of Meeker; Churchill, of Morrison; Cuttenden, of Crow Wing; Taylor, of Cass; Chase, of Pembina; Chase, Tufts, Nudick, of Hennepin East; Banfil, of Sherburne and Manomin; Nettleton, Clark, of Lake Superior.

So the resolutions offered by Mr. Robertson were rejected; and the report of the committee was then adopted, by a vote of 118 yeas to 1 nay, (Mr. Heard.)

We have thus referred at length to the action of the body which made us, in part, your representatives at Charleston, in order to give you a clear idea of the sentiments which animated the Convention.

It may be remarked, in passing, that Mr. Gorman seconded the resolutions which were introduced by Mr. Becker; voted for them in committee, in opposition to those offered by Mr. Heard; reported them from the committee; changed front, and voted for the resolutions offered by Mr. Robertson; and, after they were defeated, came back to his first position and sustained his own report.

The Charleston Convention has met and adjourned. Its proceedings were exciting and important in the highest degree; and, that we may not be misunderstood or misrepresented, we submit to you for your consideration and judgment a statement of our action upon the various propositions submitted to that body:

The first meeting of the Minnesota delegation occurred at Charleston, on the morning of the 23d of April, just before the time appointed for the Convention to assemble.

Mr. Gorman was, upon motion of Mr. Sibley, designated as chairman of the delegation; Mr. Edgerton was appointed secretary; Mr. Phelps was named as the person to be presented by the delegation as Vice-President of the Convention; Mr. Cavanaugh was selected to represent our State on the Committee on Resolutions; and Mr. Fridley was nominated as a proper person to be placed on the Committee on Credentials. Before the vote was taken on the last nomination, Mr. Gor-

man demanded of Mr. Fridley his opinion with reference to certain contested seats, which would come before the Committee on Credentials for adjudication. Mr. Fridley refused, under the circumstances, to state what course he should take, as a member of that committee, beyond this extent, to wit: that, if placed on said committee, he would patiently hear both sides, and then decide as, in his judgment, justice should dictate.

This reply not being satisfactory to Mr. Gorman, he objected to the nomination of Mr. Fridley. The vote was taken, and Mr. Fridley was selected as the member of the Committee on Credentials for Minnesota, Mr. Gorman and Mr. Sibley only voting against him.

Mr. Rosser then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the chairman of this delegation be directed to cast the vote of the delegates from Minnesota, in convention, for Stephen A. Douglas, for President, until a majority of them decide otherwise

To this resolution objection was made by Mr. Becker, because, first, a resolution of the same tenor, introduced by Mr. Robertson in the State Convention, had been by that body voted down by a large majority; because, second, he was himself responsible to his constituents for his action in the approaching Convention, and he was ready and determined to meet that responsibility to the fullest extent; and because, third, the delegation had no right to make a rule which the Convention had expressly refused to make; and that he was in attendance upon the Convention at a great expense of time and money, to act as his own conscience and judgment should dictate; and he would never surrender that right into the keeping of any or all of the members of the delegation.

Mr. Rosser refusing to withdraw the resolution, Mr. Phelps moved an adjournment. The ayes and noes being demanded, those who voted to adjourn were Messrs. Phelps, Becker, Fridley, and Edgerton; those who voted in the negative were Messrs. Gorman, Rosser, Sibley, and Cavanaugh.

It being a tie vote, the chairman declared the motion lost. Mr. Becker then moved to lay the resolution upon the table. The ayes and noes were demanded. The result being the same as before, this motion was also lost. Whereupon Mr. Becker, protesting against the resolution, and denying the right of the delegation to bind him by its action, withdrew from the deliberations of his colleagues.

The vote was then taken, and the motion carried, as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Gorman, Phelps, Cavanaugh, Sibley, and Rosser.

No—Mr. Edgerton.

Not voting—Mr. Fridley. Absent—Mr. Becker.

Upon motion of Mr. Sibley, the vote by which Mr. Fridley was named a member of the Committee on Credentials was then reconsidered, Messrs. Phelps, Gorman, Cavanaugh, Sibley, and Rosser voting for a reconsideration, Mr. Edgerton against it, Mr. Becker having withdrawn and Mr. Fridley being at the time absent. Mr. Sibley was, thereupon, by the majority, substituted for Mr. Fridley; was named by the chairman as the member for Minnesota; and acted upon said committee until it made its final report and was discharged.

The delegation then adjourned, to meet at the call of its chairman.

The Convention soon after assembled. Its proceedings have been published in almost every newspaper in the land; and it only remains for us to notice the questions upon which we felt compelled to differ from our colleagues, the reason for such difference, and the consequences thereof.

On the fifth day of the Convention, the Committee on Resolutions, consisting of one delegate from each State, made its report. There were three reports submitted by this committee to the Convention.

1. A majority report, as follows:

Resolved, That the platform adopted at Cincinnati be affirmed, with the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Democracy of the United States hold these cardinal principles on the subject of slavery in the Territories: First, That Congress has no power to abolish slavery in the Territories; second, That the Territorial legislature has no power to abolish slavery in any Territory, nor to prohibit the introduction of slaves therein, nor any power to exclude slavery therefrom, nor any power to destroy or impair the right of property in slaves by any legislation whatever.

2. *Resolved*, That the enactments of State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the fugitive slave law are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Federal Government to protect, when necessary, the rights of persons and property on the high seas, in the Territories, or wherever else its constitutional authority extends.

4. *Resolved*, That the Democracy of the nation recognize it as the imperative duty of this Government to protect the naturalized citizen in all his rights, whether at home or in foreign lands, to the same extent as its native-born citizens.

5. *Resolved*, That the National Democracy earnestly recommend the acquisition of the Island of Cuba at the earliest practicable period.

Whereas that one of the greatest necessities of the age, in a political, commercial, postal, and military point of view, is a speedy communication between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts: Therefore,

Be it resolved, That the National Democratic party do hereby pledge themselves to use every means in their power to secure the passage of some bill for the construction of a Pacific railroad, from the Mississippi river to the Pacific coast, at the earliest practicable period.

Which report was signed by the delegates on the committee representing the States of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, California, and Oregon.

2. A minority report, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That we, the Democracy of the Union, in Convention assembled, hereby declare our affirmation of the resolutions unanimously adopted and declared as the platform of principles by the Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, in the year 1856, believing that Democratic principles are unchangeable in their nature, when applied to the same subject matter; and we recommend as the only further resolutions the following:

2. *Resolved*, That all questions in regard to the rights of property in States or Territories, arising under the Constitution of the United States, are judicial in their character; and the Democratic party is pledged to abide by and faithfully carry out such determination of these questions as has been or may be made by the Supreme Court of the United States.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the United States to afford ample and complete protection to all its citizens, whether at home or abroad, and whether native or foreign-born.

4. *Resolved*, That one of the necessities of the age, in a military, commercial, and postal point of view, is speedy communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States; and the Democratic party pledge such constitutional government aid as will insure the construction of a railroad to the Pacific coast at the earliest practicable period.

5. *Resolved*, That the Democratic party are in favor of the acquisition of the Island of Cuba, on such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain.

6. *Resolved*, That the enactments of State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the fugitive slave law, are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

Which report was signed by the members of said committee representing the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.

3. Another minority report, as follows:

Resolved, That we, the Democracy of the Union, in Convention assembled, hereby declare our affirmance of the Democratic resolutions unanimously adopted and declared as a Platform of Principles at Cincinnati, in the year 1856, without addition or alteration, believing that Democratic principles are unchangeable in their nature, when applied to the same subject-matter, and we recommend, as the only further resolution, the following:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the United States to extend its protection alike over all its citizens, whether native or naturalized.

Signed by the member of said committee representing the State of Massachusetts.

Up to this point there had been no material expression of difference in the Convention itself, and we believe no difference whatever among the members of our delegation.

In the meetings of the Committee on Resolutions there had been an exciting debate, which resulted in the three reports above given. This excitement was now transferred to the floor of the Convention itself. An interesting and able discussion followed, which developed the fact that we had reached a critical point in our proceedings, and it at once became apparent that, unless an earnest effort was made to reconcile conflicting views, the Convention and the Democratic party, which it represented, would be disrupted, never to be re-united.

Upon the morning of the sixth day, and before the Convention had come to any vote upon either report, Senator BIGLER, of Pennsylvania, said that there never was a more critical period in the history of the Democratic party than this, and he rose for the purpose, if possible, of impressing upon the Convention the importance of moving with calmness and deliberation, for the purpose of reconciling those differences of opinion amongst brethren of the same family that might be fatal to their future success. He was one of those who came here with an anxious desire to conciliate and reconcile those differences. He was for a union of the Democratic party for the sake of the union of the States. [Cheers.] The vote about to be cast would go very far towards sectionalizing the Democratic party.

Senator BIGLER, of Pennsylvania, then moved that the majority and minority reports be recommitted to the Convention, with instructions to report in an hour the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Platform adopted by the Democratic party at Cincinnati be affirmed, with the following explanatory resolutions:

Resolved, That the government of a Territory, organized by an act of Congress, is provisional and temporary, and, during its existence, all citizens of the United States have an equal right to settle in the Territory, without their rights, either of person or property, being destroyed or impaired by congressional or territorial legislation.

Resolved, That the Democratic party stands pledged to the doctrine that it is the duty of Government to maintain all the Constitutional rights of property of whatever kind, in the Territories, and to enforce all the decisions of the Supreme Court in reference thereto.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the United States to afford ample and complete protection to all its citizens, whether at home or abroad, and whether native or foreign.

Resolved, That one of the necessities of the age, in a military, commercial, and postal point of view, is speedy communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States; and the Democratic party pledge such constitutional Government aid as will insure the construction of a railroad to the Pacific coast at the earliest practical period.

Resolved, That the Democratic party are in favor of the acquisition of the Island of Cuba, on such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain.

Resolved, That the enactments of State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the fugitive slave law, are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

He moved the previous question.

Mr. Walker, of Alabama, demanded a division of the question; and the question being upon the first branch of the resolution offered by Mr. Bigler, to commit the resolutions offered by the Committee on Resolutions, with the amendments, back to the committee, the vote was taken, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 152, nays 151—as follows:

<i>States.</i>	<i>Yeas.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>
Maine	3	5
New Hampshire	0	5
Vermont	0	5
Massachusetts	8	5
Rhode Island	0	4
Connecticut	1½	4½
New York	0	35
New Jersey	4	3
Pennsylvania	16	11
Delaware	3	0
Maryland	5½	2½
Virginia	14	1
North Carolina	10	0
South Carolina	8	0
Georgia	10	0
Florida	3	0
Alabama	9	0
Louisiana	6	0
Mississippi	7	0
Texas	4	0
Arkansas	4	0
Missouri	5	4
Tennessee	11	1
Kentucky	12	0

<i>States.</i>	<i>Yeas.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>
Ohio	0	23
Indiana.....	0	13
Illinois.....	0	11
Michigan	0	6
Wisconsin	0	5
Iowa.....	0	4
Minnesota.....	1	3
California	4	0
Oregon	3	0
	152	151

So the proposed platforms were recommitted.

The remaining portion of Mr. Bigler's motion was then laid upon the table, by a vote of 242½ to 56½.

This was the first vote upon which the delegation divided—Messrs. Fridley and Edgerton voting ay, and the balance of the delegation no.

It was a decisive vote, and carried the motion, which would have been lost but for the one vote from Minnesota in support of it. The delegates voting for it do not deem any explanation of it necessary, for they compromised no principle, and only expressed their willingness to acquiesce in the request made by the delegations from every unquestioned Democratic State in the Confederacy for another effort to save the harmony and integrity of the only national party in the country. Their action in this regard they submit with entire confidence to the judgment of those whose representatives they are.

At the evening session of the Convention on the same day, the committee again submitted three reports; two of them the majority report, and the larger minority report, somewhat but not essentially modified.

The delegate from Massachusetts, who had before reported the Cincinnati Platform pure, again reported the same back, but there was added to his own the name of Mr. Cavanaugh, our representative on the committee, the name of the delegate from Indiana, and also the member of the committee from New Jersey.

The debate which followed showed that the effort which had been made in good faith to reunite the gallant old party on a common platform had failed, and it only remained for the Convention by a vote to decide the issue.

That vote was taken on the morning of the seventh day; the question being first upon the adoption of the report of Mr. Butler, in behalf of himself and the delegate from Minnesota, Indiana, and New Jersey, to wit, the Cincinnati Platform pure. The vote was as follows:

<i>States.</i>	<i>Yeas.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>
Maine.....	3	5
New Hampshire.....	0	5
Vermont	0	5
Massachusetts	8	5
Rhode Island.....	0	4

<i>States.</i>	<i>Yeas.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>
Connecticut.....	2½	3½
New York.....	0	35
New Jersey.....	5	2
Pennsylvania.....	16½	10½
Delaware.....	3	0
Maryland.....	5½	2½
Virginia.....	12½	2½
North Carolina.....	10	0
South Carolina.....	0	8
Georgia.....	10	0
Florida.....	0	3
Alabama.....	0	9
Louisiana.....	0	6
Mississippi.....	0	7
Texas.....	0	4
Arkansas.....	0	4
Missouri.....	4½	4½
Tennessee.....	11	1
Kentucky.....	9	3
Ohio.....	0	23
Indiana.....	0	13
Illinois.....	0	11
Michigan.....	0	6
Wisconsin.....	0	5
Iowa.....	0	4
Minnesota.....	1½	2½
California.....	0	4
Oregon.....	3	0
	105	198

And the amendment was lost. Minnesota here again divided her vote: Messrs. Becker, Fridley, and Edgerton voting for the Butler report, and the balance of the delegation (Mr. Cavanaugh among them abandoning his own report) against it.

Pending this vote a question arose in the New Jersey delegation with reference to their voting as a unit, which was analogous to the point made at the first meeting of our delegation by Mr. Becker, in opposition to the resolution offered by Mr. Rosser.

When New Jersey was called, Mr. Williamson, of New Jersey, called the attention of the Chair to the fact that a difference existed amongst the delegates as to how the vote was to be cast. He read the resolutions of the State Convention on *instructing* the delegates to vote for William C. Alexander for Vice-President, and *recommended* them to cast their other votes as a unit.

The Chair decided that the vote of New Jersey must be cast as a unit.

Mr. Williamson appealed from the decision of the Chair. The question being on the appeal, the decision of the Chair was reversed; 145 voting to sustain it and 151 against it. Among the latter the *entire Minnesota delegation*, who interfered to save a minority in New Jersey

from an arrogant and arbitrary rule which the majority of our delegation had previously endeavored to thrust upon their own colleagues.

But to proceed with the narrative. The question next before the Convention was stated to be on the adoption of the minority resolutions reported by Mr. Samuels, of Iowa, and the vote being taken, there were ayes 165, nays 138; Minnesota voting as a unit for this report. So the minority report was adopted. Subsequently, as all know who have watched the proceedings, the report was amended by striking out the second resolution and its preamble, the vote of Minnesota being at first divided on this proposition—Messrs. Becker, Fridley, and Edgerton voting for it, and their colleagues against it. On a correction of the vote, however, the majority of the delegation were permitted to change their vote, thus again making Minnesota a unit upon this subject.

After the adoption of the Platform, the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and a part of the delegates from Arkansas and Delaware withdrew from further participation in the proceedings of the Convention.

On the morning of the next day, which was the eighth day of the Convention, the delegations from Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, and North Carolina asked leave to retire for consultation; which was granted.

Upon their return, Mr. Howard, of Tennessee, presented the following resolution as the ultimatum of the South, and as embodying the only terms upon which the States above-named could with propriety or safety remain in the Convention:

Resolved, That all the citizens of the United States have an equal right to settle, with their property, in the Territories of the United States, and that, under the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, which we recognize as a correct exposition of the Constitution of the United States, neither their rights of person nor property can be destroyed or impaired by Congressional or Territorial legislation.

He also presented a resolution, declaring that on the ballot for President and Vice-President, no person shall be declared nominated who did not receive two-thirds of all the votes the full Convention was entitled to cast.

Upon the first resolution, the Convention has not yet been called to vote. The last resolution was carried by a decided vote, Messrs. Becker, Fridley, and Edgerton voting for it, and the remainder of the delegation against it.

It was the established rule of former Democratic National Conventions, was persistently urged by the Democratic States—Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, California, and Oregon—and we but followed the dictates of our own judgment in acquiescing in that request.

The Convention next proceeded to ballot for a candidate for President of the United States. Fifty-seven ballots were had, and no nomination was made. Commencing on the first ballot with 145½ votes, Mr. DOUGLAS received his highest vote, 152½, on the twenty-third ballot; and once again, on the thirty-fifth ballot, received 152 votes.

An analysis of this vote shows that he received from the 17 undoubted Democratic States of the Union, casting 127 electoral votes, but 11 votes, as follows :

Maryland.....	3½
Missouri.....	4½
Tennessee.....	1
North Carolina.....	1
Virginia.....	1

Rhode Island gave him 4 votes, Connecticut 3½, New Jersey 2, and Pennsylvania 9½. The remainder of his strength came from States which are either sure to be Republican, or most likely to be so in the approaching contest.

The delegation from Minnesota voted for Mr. Douglas as a unit until the ninth ballot, when Messrs. Edgerton and Fridley changed their vote to Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee. On the 37th ballot, the name of Mr. Johnson being withdrawn, they voted for Daniel S. Dickinson, of New York.

After the 57th ballot, a proposition was made by the Virginia delegation to adjourn the Convention to meet again at Baltimore, on the 18th day of June, which motion finally prevailed by a large majority. Mr. Becker alone of the delegation voting against it, and his colleagues all for it.

We have, now, Fellow Democrats, stated to you briefly and clearly our action as members of the Democratic Convention at Charleston. The foregoing is a simple statement of facts, and will be sustained and corroborated by the record. We impugn no man's motives ; we misrepresent no man's action ; we claim for ourselves to have been actuated solely by a sense of duty to you and to the Democratic party of the country.

Our loyalty to that party and its principles rises above our partiality for any man or set of men ; and as in the past we have been true to its principles and to its organization, so in the future we shall not turn our back upon either.

GEO. L. BECKER,
A. M. FRIDLEY,
A. J. EDGERTON.

WASHINGTON, *May* 7, 1860.





